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Approved For Release 2002/11/13 : CIA-RDP79T00875A003300360001-5

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13 October 1957

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Copy No. 138

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. *86*

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. *TS*

11 DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

NEXT REVIEW DATE: *2010*

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: *1-4-80* REVIEWER

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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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State Department review completed

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4. MALIK SAYS LEBANON'S PRO-WESTERN POSITION CRUMBLING

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[Redacted]

Lebanese Foreign Minister Malik told Ambassador Lodge on 11 October that Lebanon's pro-Western policy is rapidly being undermined. Malik expects parliament may order the Foreign Ministry to declare that Syria constitutes no threat to Lebanon. He fears present attitudes could ultimately lead to the abrogation of agreements with the United States, including those negotiated by the Richards mission.

Comment

The weakening of the Lebanese pro-Western attitude is the prime objective of Lebanese opposition forces which favor the "neutralist" Arab policy of Egypt and Syria. This group plays on Lebanese fears that the Chamoun government is forsaking Lebanon's traditionally neutral position in the Arab world, and that its close association with American Middle Eastern policy will upset the delicate political balance among Lebanese, Moslem and Christian elements.

The Lebanese government has already felt it necessary to issue a statement declaring that "Lebanon will consider any aggression against Syria as aggression against herself." The Lebanese have thereby aligned themselves with the pro-Syrian professions of other Arab states.

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6. FRENCH POLITICAL CRISIS

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[Redacted]

The invitation to former premier and Independent leader Antoine Pinay to form a new French government was probably intended primarily to kill time until Socialist ex-premier Guy Mollet feels the crisis has ripened sufficiently to make a second try. President Coty, concerned by the political implications of the continuing crisis and by the gravity of the financial situation, reportedly favors Mollet, who would probably muster a majority on most key issues but whose economic and welfare views remain anathema to the Independents.

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[Redacted] each day's delay in ending the crisis increases the prospect for a "De Gaulle solution." They consider that De Gaulle's return to power is a "serious possibility" if a new government is not invested during the next two or three weeks, and that he could be recalled sooner if the present situation suddenly deteriorates--for example, through incidents arising from Communist demonstrations set for 17 October to protest the Algerian war.

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[Redacted] widespread violence might easily result if Poujadist toughs also turn out and succeed in provoking incidents which crystallize the widespread non-Communist sentiment against giving up Algeria.

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7. PRE-ELECTION TENSION INCREASING IN GUATEMALA

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[redacted] an antigovernment demonstration is planned for 14 October by the Communist-infiltrated Revolutionary party, which was recently barred from the 20 October presidential elections.

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[redacted] the demonstration is intended to help prepare sentiment for a revolution after the expected victory of the moderate administration party presidential candidate, Miguel Ortiz Passarelli.

The chief danger of leftist-inspired disorders is that they might provide a pretext for a rightist coup. Defense Minister Juan Francisco Oliva insists that constitutional procedures will be observed and that he is in full control of the army. [redacted]

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